GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:21
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
JURISDICTION OF ADC
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Access Deficit Charge (ADC) is a levy borne by private operators to subsidize the operations of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the locus standi of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in staking its claim on jurisdiction of ADC;

(c) whether it would amount to clash of interest if DoT who is 100% shareholder in BSNL, decides the quantum/nature of ADC subsidy that BSNL would get from private operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) No, Sir. Access Deficit Charge is leviable for supporting services where tariffs are below cost, due to regulatory or social reasons and is available to all Service Providers providing such services.

(b) As per the Government policy, access to telecommunications is of utmost importance for achievement of the country`s social and economic goals. Availability of affordable and effective communications for the citizens is at the core of the vision and goal of the telecom policy.

The Access Deficit Charge arises out of tariff rebalancing exercise for providing affordable and effective communications to the citizen. Department of Telecommunications is responsible for formulation and implementation of telecommunication policies in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.